There is need to update land records and to computerise them to make access to information easier.

Urban Development, Housing and Poverty Alleviation

Urban poverty remains an area of significant and persistent neglect in public policy and is a manifestation of lack of income and purchasing power attributable to lack of productive employment, high rate of inflation, lack of access to social infrastructure, affecting the quality of life of the people. The 1993-94 official estimate of the total urban population 'below poverty line' was 32.36%.

The modified urban poverty alleviation programme re-named as Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) consists of two schemes, (a) the Urban Self Employment Programme (USEP) and (b) the Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP). Impact assessment has been suggested.

Evaluation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

†4252. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has advised the Central Government to make an independent evaluation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the criterion presently adopted by Government to evaluate the development of Centrally Sponsored Schemes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Planning Commission in it's Mid-Term Appraisal of the Ninth Five Year Plan has indicated that there are too many Centrally Sponsored Schemes to monitor. The number needs to be curtailed. In several sectors, there have been a large number of plan schemes with similar objectives targeting the same population. The Planning Commission has taken the following steps in this regard :

(i) A Committee of the National Development Council on transfer of Centrally Sponsored Schemes has been set up under the Chairmanship of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(ii) All the Central Ministries have been advised to review Centrally Sponsored Schemes on Zero based budget to ascertain their continuance in the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(c) Centrally Sponsored Schemes are selected for evaluation, keeping in view the various factors which *inter-alia* include national importance, coverage of beneficiaries and financial investment.

The Planning Commission has been advising various Central Ministries from time to time to make an independent evaluation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

Non-Lapsable Pool of Resources for North-East

4253. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the amount accumulated in the Non-lapsable Pool of Resources for the North- East during the last three years; and

(b) the details of projects sanctioned from this pool, indicating amount released so far, amount utilized and target achieved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) All Union Ministries/Departments (except those specifically exempted) are required to spend at least 10% of their Budget(s) on schemes/projects for the benefit of the North Eastern Region and Sikkim. In order to ensure that adequate Plan allocation is made for the North East (and Sikkim), Ministries/Departments have been advised to indicate a separate Head in their Demands for Grants for the purpose of making lump-sum provision (10% of Budget) for the North East and Sikkim. Shortfalls in meeting 10% norm for the North East (and Sikkim) are to be pooled in a Central Pool of Resources. An exercise to identify the availability of funds in the Central Pool has since been initiated.

Releases from the Pool are made in instalment(s) subject to utilisation of funds and progress made-both in financial and physical terms in respect of funds already released.

So far, an amount of Rs 951.07 crores has been released from the Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources for the various projects in the North-East and Sikkim. Details are given in the enclose statement I to IX